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Response Under 37 C.F.R. § 1.116  
Expedited Procedure  
Examining Group: 3763

AF 61

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re Application of: Robert C. Simpson

Serial No.: 09/989,342

Confirmation No.: 5345

Filed: November 20, 2001

For: An Epidural Catheter System To Contain  
And Control An Epidural Catheter,  
Maintain Epidural Catheter Sterility And  
Prevent Epidural Catheter Contamination

Group Art Unit: 3763

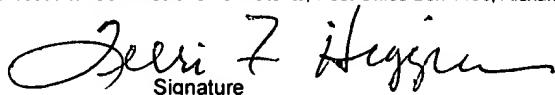
Examiner: Catherine S. WILLIAMS

Atty. Docket No.: 13421.0002.NPUS00

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**RESPONSE TO FINAL OFFICE ACTION DATED MAY 17, 2004**

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**INTRODUCTORY COMMENTS:**

This paper responds to the Final Office Action dated May 17, 2004 for which the three-month shortened statutory period for response ends August 17, 2004.

It is believed that no fees are due; however, should any fees be required for any reason relating to the enclosed materials, the Commissioner is authorized to deduct those fees from Deposit Account No. 01-2508, referencing order no. 13421.0002.NPUS00.

Applicant respectfully requests reconsideration of the application in view of the following amendments and remarks.